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## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Western Robin and Sierra Junco Nesting in Alameda County, California.**—On May 15, 1917, while strolling through the Claremont Country Club grounds in Oakland a number of Cooper Club members became interested in the presence of Western Robins (*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*). Our interest was increased when we found a nest about twenty-five feet above the ground in a deciduous oak tree with the brooding Robin in full view. The same morning we came upon a nest of the Sierra Junco (*Junco oreganus thurberi*), containing four young partly feathered.

On May 18, I made a second visit to the same part of the grounds. The Robin was still brooding, but the Junco's nest had been pulled out of its snug hollow and was empty. Not far away I found Sierra Juncos trilling in the cypress trees.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, Berkeley, California, September 4, 1917.

**Sierra Junco Breeding at Berkeley.**—On September 3, 1917, while walking along the road at the back of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology building on the University of California campus, my attention was attracted by the insistent calling of Juncos (probably *Junco oreganus thurberi*). I discovered two streaked young on an oak limb about ten feet directly above my head, and at the same time I heard the call of another Junco higher up in the same tree. This last proved to be the female parent which flew to the road, followed by one young begging to be fed. It was given a worm by the parent, after which both continued feeding on the road within fifteen feet of me for about ten minutes. All this time the other young Junco remained in the tree calling. The parent then flew to this one and fed it several times with something from the limbs of the oak.—MARGARET W. WYTHE, Berkeley, California, September 6, 1917.

**That Goshawk Invasion Again.**—Apparently the first record of the Eastern Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus atricapillus*) for Los Angeles County was made by Dr. I. D. Nokes, of Los Angeles, who took an adult female of this variety November 26, 1916, in Placerita Canyon, near Newhall.—L. E. WYMAN, Los Angeles, August 21, 1917.

**The Goshawk in Southern California and Arizona.**—Apparently there was a general flight of this species last winter through the southern counties of California, and even extending to Arizona points.

According to my records, I received four specimens in the flesh, one of which was shot at Walker, Arizona, December 10, 1916, by Mrs. A. F. Carlson, who writes me that she also "saw its mate". The other three specimens, all females, were taken in the vicinity of Los Angeles, as follows: November 24, 1916, Chatsworth; December 18, 1916, Malibu district; December 27, 1916, Whittier.

Mr. Roth Reynolds, taxidermist, reports one bird taken in Arizona, close to the California line, but has no exact data. Mr. Andy Booth received two specimens, one of which I purchased and later donated to the Museum of History, Science and Art. I also saw three mounted specimens which had been recently prepared in the taxidermy shop of Mr. Melvin Phillips, Fillmore, California. He reports that all of them were killed in Ventura County and that several others were taken during the winter months.

I personally dissected the four specimens I received, and ascertained that three of the stomachs contained undigested parts of Valley Quail, the other being empty.—A. E. COLBURN, Los Angeles, California, September 15, 1917.

### Some Field Notes for 1917.—

*Elanus leucurus*. White-tailed Kite. During the spring and summer of 1917 a pair of White-tailed Kites nested near Lake Merced and succeeded in bringing their brood to maturity. This is the first record in many years for San Francisco County. I noted these birds on several occasions in Marin County during June, and found one nest near Kentfield on June 5. It is my opinion that the species is slowly but surely re-establishing itself in the bay region where it has been nearly extinct for several years.

*Oceanodroma kaedingi*. Kaeding Petrel. On May 7 I saw two petrels, evidently of this species, on San Francisco Bay, near the entrance to Oakland harbor. The presence of these birds of the open sea is rare enough with us to be worthy of note.

*Ixobrychus exilis*. Least Bittern. *Sitta canadensis*. Red-breasted Nuthatch. These two species were noted by me in Golden Gate Park on May 12. Both were reported to me by competent observers several times after I noted them, and it seems possible that they spent the summer there.

*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*. Western Robin. It is not very long ago that the first robin's nest was discovered in Golden Gate Park. This year the birds seemed to me to be more abundant than ever. They are also nesting in San Mateo County at Mount Olivet Cemetery, and on the eastern side of the bay near Berkeley. I noted them carrying food at the cemetery on July 15; and Mrs. Amelia S. Allen reports them from the Berkeley station.

*Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*. Farallon Cormorant.

*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*. Brandt Cormorant.

Mr. W. Leon Dawson some years ago reported Farallon Cormorants as nesting in large numbers on the Seal Rocks, where they seem never to have been noted previously. On July 15 I examined the birds on these rocks very carefully with a telescope magnifying twenty diameters. There were several hundred cormorants on the rocks and a good many of them were nesting. The nests could be plainly seen and birds were also seen carrying nesting material to the rocks. Dawson mentioned only Farallon Cormorants, but of those I examined about a third were Brandt Cormorants.

*Amphispiza belli*. Bell Sparrow. On June 2 I found a pair of Bell Sparrows nesting on the east slope of Mount Tamalpais, west of Larkspur. There were several young just leaving the nest and hardly able to fly. The species has been noted in the county near Nicasio but is apparently nowhere very common.

*Hylocichla guttata slevini*. Monterey Hermit Thrush. On June 10 I noted a few Monterey Hermit Thrushes on the eastern slope of Bolinas Ridge. The locality is rather dense forest, and in condition approaches Boreal. The time of year and the surroundings are such as strongly to suggest that these thrushes, with so disconnected a breeding range, have one of their nesting colonies in western Marin County.

*Circus hudsonius*. Marsh Hawk. In July, 1915, I noted a number of Marsh Hawks on Point Reyes Peninsula and suspected that they were nesting there as some of the birds seen seemed to be in juvenile plumage. On June 20 of the present year I found a nest about two miles from Point Reyes Light House. The nest was composed of grass and contained five eggs rather advanced in incubation. I believe that this is the first breeding record for Marin County and for the whole humid coast region.—W. A. SQUIRES, *San Francisco, California, September 15, 1917.*

**Condition of Game Birds in East-central California.**—During two months of the past (1917) summer, and six weeks of the same season in 1914, I was engaged in field work at various points in western Mono County. As last winter was a hard one for all forms of mountain life because of the severe and long-continued cold, and as there are now many more hunters in the district each fall than there were three years ago, it seems to be worth while to report upon the apparent condition of the game birds of the district.

Most of my time during both years was spent at points between eight and nine thousand feet in altitude, which was an excellent location for both quail (*Oreortyx p. plumifera*) and grouse (*Dendragapus o. sierrae*). In 1914, both species were well represented, and although by no means common, especially the latter, both were apt to be encountered during a walk of a couple of miles through their haunts. In 1917, throughout a greater length of time, and during rambles that were of considerably greater extent, I saw neither quail nor grouse; nor did anyone who was camped in our near vicinity, except my brother-in-law, who met a small family of grouse one day. This present scarcity I believe to be due more to the severe winter than to human agencies, for both birds make decidedly hard hunting. Although most of the published information pertaining to the Sierra Grouse gives one the impression that these birds haunt the pines and associations of scant undergrowth, my experience has been that they seldom resort to the larger conifers except to roost, and to escape their enemies by remaining motionless in the upper branches. At least in the locality under consideration, their favorite habitat is in the vicinity of dense aspen thickets, and the tangles of manzanita, hazel and other brush on the dry hillsides and benches of the high Transition Zone, from which they flush to the timbered ravines. Such is the favorite haunt of the quail as well. Even with hunters

fairly plentiful, it would be no trouble for these birds to hold their own, for there are few men whom a few hundred feet of this manzanita tangle will not discourage. Over the Sierran divide to the west, conditions are somewhat different, for the hillsides are practically all densely wooded, and although grouse (but not quail, apparently) occur in satisfactory numbers in the vicinity of the lower aspen thickets, their numbers are likely to be reduced seriously only in the vicinity of the main automobile roads, which are few and far between.

In the foothills of western Owens Valley, Plumed Quail, with quantities of Valley Quail (*Lophortyx c. vallicola*) at a slightly lower elevation, are more abundant than they are in middle Mono County, but in the vast stretches of brush they have a safe retreat and are well able to take care of themselves.

Pheasants (*Phasianus torquatus*) have been introduced into the upper part of Owens Valley, and are often to be seen feeding familiarly beside the roads. The area suited to them is the cultivated strip along the lower slopes, and here they have been quite firmly established for a number of years. They are holding their own, and even increasing, I am told, but the suitable territory is so limited that if the birds are ever allowed to be shot, their extermination would be speedy, and, I am convinced, they could not survive open seasons for two years.

The Sage Hen (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), which now occurs and breeds regularly as far south as the vicinity of Big Pine, is confined to the sage brush at the bottoms of the valleys. In such locations they prove to be easy prey to hunters, and their complete protection comes none too soon, for their numbers are decreasing annually. The favorite method of hunting them is to track them over the dry sand through the brush, or, in late fall, through the snow. Not only do local ranchers account for many, and will do so still, probably, in spite of the law, but up to the present year, numbers of so-called sportsmen who went from the larger cities for the purpose, hired men to locate flocks of the birds and drive them towards the hunters. I fear that the good roads movement in the west will prove to be an effective extinctive agency for this grand game, unless prompt and stringent measures are adopted by all the states interested in its perpetuation.—A. B. HOWELL, *Covina, California, October 8, 1917.*

**Two New Records for the State of Washington.**—It gives me great pleasure to record the two following species, which are, to the best of my belief, new to the state of Washington. Both captures were made by Mr. Carl Lien at Westport, Washington. The quoted information following was supplied by Mr. Lien.

*Sterna caspia.* Caspian Tern. "On October 5, 1917, on the mudflats, I ran across a Caspian Tern that someone had shot, and a young man who was with me said, 'I saw eight or ten of those birds flying around here yesterday'. I could not save the skin, as a hawk or something else had torn it too badly." Mr. Lien did, however, get one of the wings in order to have a proof of the record, and Mr. J. Grinnell has kindly examined it and endorsed the record.

*Tryngites subruficollis.* Buff-breasted Sandpiper. "I had to cross a salt marsh, or grass-covered tide-flat, and towards the upper end where the marsh edges off into the sand, two of these quiet and confiding birds were to be seen. This was on September 1, 1917, and on September 2, I saw them again." The next day, September 3, Mr. Lien returned and collected both birds, which were male and female. This was at Westport, Chehalis County, which borders on the Pacific Ocean. This species is so extremely rare on the Pacific coast that Mr. Lien's notes are of interest as showing in what sort of locality other observers should look for it.—J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Washington, October 29, 1917.*